

**Standardization**

**AFSOC DIVING PROGRAM**

---

**COMPLIANCE WITH THIS INSTRUCTION IS MANDATORY.** This instruction implements AFD 60-1, *Operations and Resources Standardization*. It establishes policy, assigns responsibility, and defines operating procedures for diving operations conducted by Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) and AFSOC-gained Air National Guard (ANG) personnel. This instruction ensures interoperability with other elements of the US Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) community and promotes operational readiness and safety through a uniform execution of policy and training. It applies to all personnel assigned to AFSOC performing diving operations. This instruction applies to the Air National Guard when published in ANGIND 2.

**SUMMARY OF REVISIONS**

This revision aligns AFSOC requirements with AFD 60-1. It changes references to combat diving to diving operations; adds team leader of the dive and contractor dive master responsibilities; adds the waiver authority to this regulation, 720STG/CC and states deviation from the Authorized for Navy Use (ANU) diving equipment list or USN Diving manual will be forwarded through the 720 STG/ CC for approval from NAVSEA OOC.

**Supersedes** AFSOCI 60-101, 1 September 1995.

**OPR:** 720 STG/DOCM (GMG1 John McGuire)

**Certified by:** 720 STG/DO (Major Steven L. McLeary)

**Pages:** 15

**Distribution:** F

**Paragraph**

**Section A--Background**

Diving operations ..... 1

**Section B--Definitions**

Diving ..... 2

AFSOCI 60-101 Related Terms..... 3

**Section C--Policy**

Personnel Safety, Training, Unit Mission, and Material Readiness..... 4

Action ..... 5

Navy Publications and Forms Prescribed ..... 6

**Section D--Responsibilities**

Commanders ..... 7

Diving Medical Officer (DMO)..... 8

Unit Diving Officer..... 9

Team Leader (TL) of the Dive ..... 10

Diving Supervisor.....	11
Assistant Diving Supervisor.....	12
Diving Medic.....	13
Ship's Safety Observer.....	14
Divers .....	15
Standby or Safety Diver.....	16
Dive Master .....	17

## Section E--Safety

General .....	18
Lost Diver Procedures .....	19
Safety Boats and Diving Platforms.....	20
Guidance when Diving with Foreign Units.....	21
Waivers.....	22

## Attachments

## Page

1. Glossary of References .....	15
---------------------------------	----

## Section A--Background

**1. Diving Operations.** United States Commander in Chief, Special Operations Command (USCINCSOC) assigned pronopency for Maritime Operations to the Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command in USSOCOM Directive 10-1, Terms of Reference. Diving is a maritime activity. Clear understanding of select Navy regulations and organizations is key to joint integration and standardization of diving. Additionally, the following Navy organizations are associated with dive operations.

1.1. Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA). NAVSEA is located in Arlington, Virginia, and is the major Navy command (called a systems command) which has responsibility for Naval forces afloat. The Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) has given the NAVSEA authority to certify dive systems that are used afloat and which require certification. Presently, Draeger LAR V is the only AFSOC diving equipment that requires certification by NAVSEA.

1.2. The Supervisor of Diving (NAVSEA 00C3) works for the Director of Ocean Engineering (NAVSEA OOC) within NAVSEA. This is the primary Navy office concerned with diving operations, and is also located in Arlington, Virginia.

1.3. Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC). NAVFAC is the major Navy command which has responsibility for all shore facilities. The CNO has given NAVFAC authority to certify dive systems that are used ashore, such as shore-located hyperbaric chambers.

1.4. Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command (COMNAVSPECWARCOM). COMNAVSPECWARCOM is located in Coronado, California, and is the AFSOC Commander's counterpart for Naval special operations. USCINCSOC designated NAVSPECWARCOM as proponent for special operations maritime operations.

1.5. Naval Special Warfare Center (NAVSPECWARCEN). NAVSPECWARCEN is also located at Coronado, California and is home to the Basic Underwater Demolitions/SEAL course. COMNAVSPECWARCOM has designated the NAVSPECWARCEN as executive agent for special operations open and closed circuit diving issues. These responsibilities include issues such as; Draeger

LAR V diving, combat swimmer operations, diving equipment, policies, dive planning, and diving systems certification.

1.6. Naval Safety Center (NAVSAFECEN). NAVSAFECEN is located in Norfolk, Virginia. This command liaisons with NAVSPECWARCEN concerning safety aspects of combat diving and certification procedures for all special operations diving equipment. An MOA between AFSOC and the NAVSAFECEN establishes an annual diving safety survey program for Special Tactics dive lockers. The Air Force Diving Safety Checklist facilitates safety and standardization.

1.7. Navy Experimental Diving Unit (NEDU). NEDU is located in Panama City, Florida. NEDU is the authorized testing agent for NAVSEA. All proposed diving related equipment is tested and evaluated at NEDU. NEDU then recommends changes to Authorized for Navy Use (ANU) diving equipment list.

## **Section B--Definitions**

**2. Diving.** Any underwater activity or related hyperbaric facility operation in which personnel are subjected to elevated ambient pressure using equipment such as:

2.1. Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus (scuba). Scuba includes open, semi-closed, and closed circuit designs.

2.2. Dry Deck Shelters (DDS), SEAL Delivery Vehicles (SDVs), Diver Propulsion Vehicles (DPVs) and associated life support systems are used by SEAL teams.

2.3. Manned hyperbaric and recompression chambers, and diving simulators, such as submarine escape trainers and diver support systems for aviation escape trainers.

2.4. Other diving life support or diving equipment not specified above.

## **3. AFSOCI 60-101 Related Terms:**

3.1. System Certification. An independent technical review, survey, test, and approval of diving equipment or systems to perform safely within specified operational limits.

3.2. System Certification Authority (SCA). The Chief of Naval Operations delegated authority for execution of the Diving and Hyperbaric Systems Certification Program to NAVSEA and/or NAVFAC.

3.3. Authorized for Navy Use (ANU). The designation applied to selected military or commercially available diving equipment, tools, accessories, and hyperbaric system components which have undergone design safety reviews, or test and evaluation, and are proven safe. Diving equipment can be designated ANU only by the NAVSEA OOC. NAVSEA OOC3 reviews requests and makes recommendations to NAVSEA OOC after an independent review of testing documentation by NEDU.

3.4. Qualified Diver. Active duty, and reserve components of the military who successfully complete formal training courses recognized by USSOCOM and maintain currency IAW AFSOCI 36-2204, Special Tactics Operator Training.

3.5. Waiver. A waiver is required for authorization to depart from established operational or safety standards, to use diving equipment or procedures which are not currently ANU, or exceed specified

operational limits. Waivers can only be approved by written request through NAVSEA OCC via the AFSOC Diving Officer (720 STG) and subsequently approved by the CNO. Waivers will be IAW OPNAV 002 and OPNAVI 13150.27A.

3.6. Deviation from established physical standards for divers must include input from the Diving Medical Officer (DMO) 720 STG.

## **Section C--Policy**

**4. Personnel Safety, Training, Unit Mission, and Material Readiness.** The following policies are established for all diving or dive training conducted by AFSOC personnel:

4.1. All AFSOC diving will be conducted by qualified divers using the ANU and certified divers life support equipment and systems. AFSOC diving equipment will be maintained IAW 4790 (series), Ships Maintenance and Material Management (3-M) Manual. Only current, qualified divers will use military diving equipment.

4.2. All civilian employees involved in diving activities will comply with this instruction and SECNAVINST 12000.2A, Civilian Diving in the Navy.

4.3. Commercial or civilian divers not employed by AFSOC will not participate in AFSOC diving or use military diving equipment.

4.4. All diving operations will be conducted IAW NAVSEA 0994-LP-001-9010/20, US Navy Diving Manual. AFSOC personnel are required to conduct a variety of diving operations, some of which are unique to AFSOC and may not be addressed in detail in the Navy Diving Manuals. This Instruction assigns responsibilities and provides procedures to supplement the Navy Diving Manual to ensure the safe conduct of AFSOC diving operations.

4.5. Only the 24STS is authorized to maintain closed circuit qualification and training IAW USCINCSOC/SOJ3 message DTG 021853Z DEC 94, SUBJ: 720<sup>TH</sup> STGP Closed Circuit Diving Requirements.

4.6 Refer to AFI 11-403 for flying after diving policy.

**5. Action.** AFSOC commanders with military divers assigned to their units will become thoroughly familiar and ensure compliance with this instruction. Commanders will issue amplifying directives as required.

**6. Navy Publications and Forms.** All Navy publications and forms listed in this instruction can be obtained through the local base Publication Distribution Office (PDO).

## **Section D--Responsibilities**

**7. Commanders.** Per COMNAVSPECWARCOM, commanders of all Special Tactics units and AFSOC diving activities will:

7.1. Ensure divers employ only systems and equipment that is certified or listed in the NAVSEAINST 10560.2B, Diving Equipment Authorized for Navy Use. Waivers will be IAW OPNAV 002,

OPNAVINST 13150.27A.

7.2. Maintain diving system certification per SS521-AA-MAN-010, US Navy Diving and Manned Hyperbaric System Safety Certification Manual.

7.3. Ensure diving is conducted only by qualified personnel following approved procedures.

7.4. Ensure all assigned diving personnel meet the required physical standards IAW Navy Medical Manual Article 15-66 and AFI 48-123 with input from the DMO.

7.5. Develop and implement a unit training program to ensure adequate training of divers IAW AFSOCI 36-2204. Re-qualification and training will be documented in AF Form 623 Individual Training Record by the individual and certified by a diving supervisor.

7.6. Ensure all unit dives are logged in the Divers Reporting System and a unit smooth diving log is maintained IAW the Navy Diving Manual. The smooth log is an official record of all dives performed by the unit and is to be retained at the unit for 3 years.

7.7. Report mishaps resulting in death, lost duty time from personnel injury, or significant material damage to the 720 STG/CC. The 720 STG Chief of Safety will report to AFSOC/SE and forward a courtesy copy to the Naval Safety Center IAW the current Naval Safety Center/AFSOC Diving MOA. Refer to AFI 91-204, Safety Investigations and Reports and AFSOC supplements.

7.8. Establish procedures to ensure diving equipment which may have contributed to an accident is secured, un-tampered, and shipped by fastest possible traceable means to NEDU for analysis. These procedures should specify that the equipment will not be dismantled, cleaned, or altered in any way before shipment.

7.9. Conduct annual operational, administrative, and material inspections of diving units to verify compliance with the Navy diving program and this instruction.

7.10. Designate in writing the unit diving officer, diving supervisors, and divers.

7.11. Ensure Planned Maintenance System is implemented for preventive maintenance of equipment.

7.12. Establish a unit diving Operating Instruction (OI) to govern local diving operations.

7.13. Ensure unit dive locker maintains access to the Naval Safety Bulletin Board and all divers review current diving safety messages and diving safety lines.

7.14. Ensure diving equipment is maintained IAW OPNAVINST 4790, Ship's Maintenance Material Management (3-M) Manual.

7.15. Ensure training is logged in Air Force Operations Resource Management System (AFORMS).

7.16. Ensure Air Force Occupational Safety and Health (AFOSH) Standard 127-45, Air Force Tag Out System, is used for isolating down equipment which could cause harm to personnel.

7.17. Ensure risk management and risk assessment are briefed for all diving evolutions.

**8. Diving Medical Officer (DMO).** The DMO will:

- 8.1. Direct medical care for all dive accidents when present.
- 8.2. Be trained and certified in hyperbaric medicine at the Diving Medical Officer School in Panama City, FL.
- 8.3. Review all diving physicals and determine if individuals are physically qualified to perform diving duties.
- 8.4. Be present while conducting buoyant ascents, free ascents, submarine lock-in and lock-out training, and when authorized to exceed the operational limits during exceptional exposure dives.
- 8.5. Ensure each diver has a current dive physical.
- 8.6. Coordinate and review all diving mishap reports before forwarding to Air Force Safety Center.

**9. Unit Diving Officer.** An AFSOC officer assigned by the 720 Special Tactics Group commander and/or individual unit commander to assume overall responsibility for the safe and efficient conduct of diving operations. In addition to the responsibilities outlined in the US Navy Diving Manual, the duties of the diving officer are to:

- 9.1. Be responsible for the safe conduct of all unit diving operations.
- 9.2. Supervise the qualification of all unit diving supervisors.
- 9.3. Ensure diving qualifications for all unit personnel remain current IAW AFI 48-123, Physical Standards.
- 9.4. Approve and sign unit smooth dive log which is printed via the diver reporting system.
- 9.6. Schedule unit dive training and monitor lesson plans and lectures.
- 9.7. Ensure individuals who have qualified as diving supervisors are designated in writing by the commander.
- 9.8. Keep informed concerning new diving developments and ensure new information is disseminated to the unit.
- 9.9. Utilize the diving supervisor brief outlined in the Special Tactics Operator Checklist, November 97.
- 9.10. Ensure diving supervisor performs diving supervisor checks per applicable technical manuals for types of scuba equipment utilized.

**10. Team Leader (TL).** All diving evolutions require a TL. An E-5 or above is normally assigned as TL of AFSOC maritime operations which may encompass diving as part of a larger operation or exercise. The TL will plan the operation or exercise utilizing the assigned diving supervisor to supervise and manage the actual diving portion of the operation. The TL and the diving supervisor may be the same person if the TL

is a qualified diving supervisor. The divers will receive all commands and direction from the diving supervisor. The TL may relieve the diving supervisor of duties if the TL is a qualified diving supervisor or if another qualified diving supervisor is immediately available. In case of an accident requiring medical evacuation (MEDEVAC), the TL may MEDEVAC with the victim if the tactical situation permits. The medic and the victim's dive buddy will MEDEVAC with the victim provided there is adequate space on the MEDEVAC. The TL is not required to remain on the surface. Every attempt should be made to evacuate the victim, medic, and victim's dive buddy together.

**11. Diving Supervisor.** The diving supervisor will:

11.1. Be an E-4 or above who is thoroughly familiar with the equipment, conditions, safety precautions, and hazards inherent to diving operations; have completed the Naval Special Warfare Center Diving Supervisor Course, or US Army Diving Supervisor Course at Key West, Florida; have supervised two dives under supervision for each type of scuba assigned (i.e., open/closed circuit scuba); and be designated in writing by the unit commander as a diving supervisor.

11.2. Be in charge of the diving operation; no diving operations will be conducted in the supervisor's absence. Remain topside and on-scene while divers are in the water. In the event of a diving accident, the diving supervisor will remain on-scene until all divers have safely exited the water.

11.3. Coordinate and plan all aspects of the diving operation, ensure proper clearance is obtained from appropriate higher authority, identify safety hazards, and develop emergency procedures during the planning phase to ensure the utmost safety and success of the mission. When planning the dive around ships/submarines or any other vessel, the dive supervisor will use COMNAVSPECWARCOM 3150/3, Ship's Safety Checklist.

11.4. Conduct the dive brief utilizing the Diving Supervisor Brief outlined in the Special Tactics Operator Checklist, November 97.

11.5. Inspect all equipment to ascertain that it is in proper working condition and able to perform the intended function to complete the mission.

11.6. Personally supervise the setup and any pre-dive checks for the diving equipment.

11.7. On all repetitive dives, check each diver's remaining air or oxygen supply and residual nitrogen times before conducting the next dive. When diving closed circuit scuba, the diving supervisor will ensure that the CO2 absorbent is used IAW technical manuals and NAVSEA directives.

11.8. Be responsible for advising the TL of the operation on all matters pertaining to the planning, execution, and safety of the dive.

11.9. During any diving emergency, be the single point of contact between the TL and the divers. This avoids the confusion of conflicting orders and enhances safety.

11.10. Log all dives/dive training in the divers reporting system, individual training records, and Air Force Operation Resource Management System(AFORMS) products via AF Form 1522. Individual dives are printed from the divers reporting system for inclusion in individual training record(AF Form 623). AF Form 1522 will be completed and forwarded to the Operations Resource Management Specialist for updating the AFORMS data base.

11.11. Supervise post-dive cleaning and stowage.

11.12. Ensure dive plans include the location and operational conditions of the nearest re-compression chamber and status of chamber crew. Ensure arrangements have been made for expeditious transportation of any diving casualties and for contacting a diving medical officer.

11.13. Assess the physical fitness and qualifications of the divers with the assistance of the diving medical officer and diving medic, as available.

11.14. Ensure the required equipment needed to carry out duties and responsibilities is available for possible emergency situations.

11.15. Ensure all divers receive a diving supervisor check before entering the water. The standby diver will receive a diving supervisor check first.

11.16. While conducting diving operations on or near ships or submarines, coordinate with, obtain clearance from the ship or submarine, and verify target ship's tag out procedure has been accomplished. Ensure the safety observer is aboard the target vessel prior to allowing divers to enter the water.

## **12. Assistant Diving Supervisor. Will:**

12.1. Be a qualified diving supervisor, or a member who has completed the Naval Special Warfare Center Diving Supervisor Course, or US Army Diving Supervisor Course at Key West, Florida, and is under the supervision of a qualified diving supervisor prior to being so designated by the commander.

12.2. Perform the functions of a diving supervisor during diving operations as directed by the diving supervisor.

**13. Diving Medic.** Preferably, the diving medic will be a pararescueman qualified as a Diving Medical Technician (DMT). The diving medic will:

13.1. Be present on all closed circuit dives and must be DMT qualified. Diving Medic presence on open circuit dives will be IAW unit diving O/I.

13.2. Provide routine or emergency medical treatment to diving personnel in the absence of a DMO.

13.3. In the absence of a DMO, take charge of all injuries and accompany the victim to the treatment facility in case of MEDEVAC.

13.4. Possess the STS Dive Medical Kit (912L-H). Support craft should have resuscitation equipment aboard.

13.5. Coordinate with the diving supervisor and DMO, if available, on a medical evacuation plan.

**14. Ship's Safety Observer.** The ship's safety observer is an individual assigned when diving around ships. The safety observer will complete the ship's safety checklist, and, in addition:

14.1. Act as liaison between the target ship crew and the diving supervisor.



14.2. Immediately inform the diving supervisor of any discrepancies.

14.3. Inform other ships nested and along the same pier as the target of the dive plan and complete the ship's safety checklist. Inform ships on adjacent piers and pier sentries of the dive plan, and how to contact the ship's safety observer in case of questions, emergencies, etc.

14.4. Remain on board target until all divers are recovered.

14.5. Inform all participants when the diving operation is secured.

**15. Divers.** A diver is an individual qualified by a certified military course for the type of scuba to be utilized during the dive. In addition, divers will:

15.1. Complete one dive per semi-annual period to qualify for diving duty pay (i.e., 1 Jan to 30 Jun and 1 Jul to 31 Dec). Non-current divers will refer to Navy Medical Manual, Article 15-36 for requalification procedures. Refer to AFSOCI 36-2204 for combat ready requirements.

15.1.2. Military dives are those conducted under the supervision of qualified military divers using only Navy approved or certified diving equipment, systems, and procedures. Dives conducted during off duty hours ( i.e., recreational dives using personal dive equipment) will not satisfy military dive requirements.

15.2. Monitor his diving qualifications to ensure proper record entries. Each diver will maintain a personal diving record in AF Form 623.

15.3. Be physically and mentally prepared for each dive and ensure personal equipment is prepared for the dive.

15.4. Set up scuba equipment utilizing appropriate check lists, and obey all diving signals and instructions received from the diving supervisor.

15.5. Report malfunctioning, damaged, or lost equipment promptly to the diving supervisor.

15.6. Observe the buddy system as outlined in US Navy Diving Manual and be responsible for the safety and welfare of his buddy.

15.7. Ensure a current AF Form 1042, Medical Recommendation For Flying or Special Operational Duty is posted in personal AF Form 623, Air Force Training Record.

**16. Standby or Safety Diver.** The standby or safety diver will be proficient and current for the type of scuba used during the dive. This diver's function is to provide emergency assistance to divers and perform no other work. In addition to guidance in US Navy Diving Manual, the standby or safety diver will:

16.1. Attend the entire dive or operation briefing.

16.2. Be briefed and knowledgeable concerning the rescue procedures for the type of scuba equipment being used by the diver.

NOTE: The standby diver will be present on all dives and wear open circuit type scuba equipment

regardless of what equipment divers are using unless instructed by the diving supervisor to do otherwise. The US Navy Dive Manual outlines the minimum equipment required for scuba diving.

16.3. Be positioned as near as possible to the dive station and dressed; with exception of scuba cylinders, fins, and face mask; for immediate entry into the water after being briefed by the diving supervisor.

16.4. Must be tethered when diving alone.

**17. Dive Masters.** For continuity and knowledge base, Special Tactics Squadrons utilize contracted USN Master Divers (retired) to maintain diving equipment: The dive master will:

17.1. Maintain diving equipment IAW US Navy maintenance procedures.

17.2. Maintain the unit Diver's Reporting System and forward dive data to the Naval Safety Center IAW the Navy Diving Manual.

17.3. Provide coxain services as required.

17.4. Upon request provide diver training assistance.

17.5. Inform the commander and diving officer of unsafe diving situations.

## **Section E--Safety**

### **18. General:**

18.1. All diving conducted by AFSOC personnel will follow the procedures in the US Navy Diving Manual, and the additional guidance set forth in this instruction.

18.2. Only equipment which is certified and listed in the ANU per NAVSEAINST 10560.2 will be used during diving operations.

18.3. Every dive will be preceded by a dive brief, to include risk assessment, attended by all personnel involved in the dive. If key support personnel are unavailable to attend the dive brief, the diving supervisor will ensure personnel are briefed separately.

18.4. Daily Pre-dive Checksheets will be completed for each diving operation IAW the diving manual. Should an accident or casualty occur, the pre-dive checksheets will be retained indefinitely and may become part of the official investigation records.

18.5. When more than one diving platform is required because of the nature of the operation, e.g., launch and recovery from different locations or a large number of divers, one or more assistant diving supervisors will be assigned and will perform diving supervisor duties.

18.6. No dives will be conducted through a surf zone if the surf zone contains more than three lines of waves with a wave height of more than three feet, unless otherwise authorized by the commander. Dives through plunging surf of any size require careful consideration of diver safety.

18.7. A diver recall device is mandatory equipment for all dives. Approved recall devices are listed in

the ANU.

18.8. A buddy line will be used between divers during all closed circuit dives.

18.9. A marking buoy should be used whenever possible to mark the location of divers in the water. At the discretion of the diving supervisor, a light source may be attached for easier location during night dives.

18.10. A life jacket with a whistle attached to the oral inflation hose, and with the proper CO2 cartridges or air bottles in place, will be worn during all diving operations. There will be no quick releases in the body strap of life jacket. CO2 cartridges will be maintained IAW 3-M Manual and weighed prior to each dive.

18.11. All scuba cylinders used during diving operations will be charged to at least 75 percent of the working pressure. The dive supervisor will ensure that sufficient air remains to conduct any repetitive dive.

18.12. Both individuals in a dive pair will use the same type of scuba.

18.13. For diving operations conducted between sunset and sunrise, flashlights or diving lights are mandatory for the diving supervisor and medic, and chem-lights or dive lights are mandatory for each diver. Chem-lights can be carried by the diver, unbroken, until needed.

18.14. Communication will be maintained on the scene between all safety boats, the diving supervisor, safety observer, if used, and the parent squadron in case of an emergency. Radio/cellular phone will be with diving supervisor to notify appropriate agencies in the event of an emergency.

18.15. Free Swimming Ascent (FSA) and Buoyant Ascent (BA) to include underwater derigging are considered emergency procedures and are not to be planned into a diving evolution unless; (1) The sole purpose of the evolution is to train divers in FSA/BA, (2) Properly trained instructors are on station and in control of the divers situation from air source to the surface, (3) Certified recompression chamber is on station and immediately available for use, (4) Diving medical officer is readily available to the recompression chamber within 5 minutes, and (5) Divers are checked by a diving medical technician or special operations medical technician immediately upon surfacing. Contact the 720 STG/ DOCT for approval prior to any coordination/execution of FSA training.

18.16. Any time a diver must use reserve air supply, the diver must immediately begin a return to the surface.

18.17. Except in cases of emergency or operational necessity, dives requiring decompression will not be made.

18.18. The diving supervisor will suspend diving operations when the safety of the divers is in question.

## **19. Lost Diver Procedures:**

19.1. Initiate diver recall immediately upon determining that a diver is lost.

19.2. Mark the last known location of the diver with a buoy.

19.3. Contact the parent command via radio or cellular phone. At no time will the name of any lost diver

be passed over the radio. Pass the word that a diver is missing and that a search is being initiated.

19.4. Organize divers on hand and decide if there is adequate bottom time to conduct a search. If so, commence a search of the immediate area using the buoy as the center of the search area. Do not move the buoy if no bottom time is available with divers on hand or it is suggested that available bottom time is inadequate for the task at hand. Conduct a surface swim search and contact command for additional resources.

## **20. Safety Boats and Diving Platforms:**

20.1. A safety boat is a power boat that is used for picking up divers in the event of a diving emergency. A safety boat is mandatory for any dive conducted in open water. The safety boat must be highly maneuverable and must be ready to rapidly respond to a diver needing assistance.

20.2. A diving platform is a powered or non-powered craft, barge, pier, or other point of entry used by the divers. It must be able to comfortably accommodate the number of personnel required to perform the mission. It must be able to provide water entry and recovery from a height of not more than 1 foot. An inflatable boat or ladder may be attached to an otherwise unsuitable platform to fulfill this requirement. Do not exceed manufacturers weight limits for the boat.

20.3. The following guidelines will be adhered to when using small boats as diving platforms:

20.3.1. A Zodiac F470 may be used to support no more than four divers.

20.3.2. An 18-foot rubber utility boat may be used to support no more than four divers.

20.3.3. A 20- to 24-foot boat may be used to support no more than six divers.

20.3.4. A 24-foot rigid inflatable boat (RIB) may be used to support no more than four divers.

20.4. During submarine lock-out and lock-in training, a support craft with a recompression chamber aboard will be on site.

20.5. Safety boats and diving platforms will display the proper flags, pennants, or lights.

20.6. If a probability exists that divers will become widely dispersed, two or more safety boats will be used as deemed necessary by the OIC or diving supervisor.

**21. Guidance when Diving with Foreign Units.** When AFSOC personnel are participating in diving evolutions with foreign military units, the safety of US personnel will remain the responsibility of the senior AFSOC representative present. In most cases it will be the TL, regardless of the seniority of other senior US or foreign officers present. In the conduct of these evolutions, it is highly probable that foreign diving safety and operational procedures will differ from those set forth in this instruction and its references. It will, therefore, be incumbent upon the command representative or OIC to be present to exercise discretion, mature judgment, and good sense to ensure that the foreign procedures remain consistent with safe and sound diving principles and practices throughout. To assist the TL in this regard, the following basic guidelines are to be considered in the conduct of diving evolutions with foreign military units under foreign regulations:

21.1. Diving operations may be conducted according to the directives of the foreign country as long as there is no conflict with US Navy and AFSOC diving policies.

21.2. The TL is authorized to accept operational planning and execution of dives completed by foreign counterparts when diving operations are compatible with US operations. If the TL does not agree with the planning or conduct of the dives, or believes the safety of US divers is impaired, the TL will request appropriate alterations to the diving plan or propose other means of employing the US forces. The TL must thoroughly understand the mission and execution of the dive, as well as emergency procedures and surfacing time.

21.3. The TL may participate in dives which are conducted under foreign leadership; however, the minimum personnel requirements to conduct a dive (i.e., diving supervisor, standby diver, and two divers) will not be waived. If foreign regulations permit or authorize fewer attendant personnel in the conduct of diving evolutions, the US TL will advise the foreign OIC of AFSOC's diving policy. If the foreign diving supervisor does not speak or understand sufficient English, the TL must provide one US assistant who is able to speak and understand the foreign language concerned, to aid the foreign diving supervisor. If an emergency occurs, as defined by the US diving supervisor, the US diving supervisor must request the foreign diving supervisor signal all the divers to the surface until the emergency situation has been resolved. All US divers must promptly obey signals and instructions given by the diving supervisor relevant to the conduct of that particular dive. Foreign diving signals may be used if they are thoroughly briefed and understood by all divers prior to entering the water. At no time will the US TL or diving supervisor place US divers at greater risk than allowed by AFSOC diving policy.

21.4. Under all peacetime circumstances, safety during diving operations will remain the paramount consideration. In addition to the guidelines set forth above, commanders are directed to consistently stress to members of their commands the importance of safety and the absolute requirement for personnel in positions of authority (i.e., TL, diving supervisor, diving officer, etc.) to use the utmost good judgment and common sense in conducting and supervising diving operations.

**22. Waivers.** Waiver authority for this Instruction is 720 STG/CC. Deviation from the USN Diving manual or Authorized for Navy Use (ANU) diving equipment list will be forwarded through the 720 STG/CC for approval from NAVSEA OOC.

JAMES L. OESER, Colonel, USAF  
Commander, 720 Special Tactics Group

## Attachment 1

## GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES

<i>Reference Citation</i>	<i>Format Used First Time in Text</i>	<i>Format Used Subsequently in Text</i>
Department of Defense Regulation	DODR 7000-14V7PTA, DOD Military Pay and Allowance Entitlement Manual	DOD Pay Manual
Secretary of the Navy Instruction	SECNAVINST 1200.2A, Civilian Diving in the Navy	
Navy Sea Systems Command Publications	NAVSEA 0994-LP-001-9010/20, US Navy Diving Manual, Volumes 1 and 2	Navy Diving Manual
	SS521-AA-MAN-010, US Navy Manned Hyperbaric System Safety Certification Manual	
	NAVSEAINST 3150.2, Safe Diving Distances from Transmitting Sonar	NAVSEAINST 3150.2
	NAVSEAINST 10560.2B, Diving Equipment Authorized for Navy Use	NAVSEAINST 10560.2B
Operational Naval Instructions	OPVANINST 3150.27, Navy Diving Program	OPNAVINST 3150.27
	OPNAVINST 3150.28, Diving Log	OPNAVINST 3150.28
	OPNAVINST 3150.1C, Mishap Investigating and Reporting	OPNAVINST 3150.2C
	OPNAVINST 4790 (series), Ship's Maintenance and Material Management (3-M) Manual	3M Manual
Naval Medical Manual	NAVMEDMAN, Article 15-36	
Naval Military Personnel Manual	MILPERSMAN, Article 1410380	
Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command Forms	COMNAVSPECWARCOM 3150/3, Ship's Safety Checklist	Ship's Safety Checklist
US Special Operations Command Directive	USSOCOMD 10-1, Terms of Reference	

AF Special Operations  
Command Instruction

AFSOCI 36-2204, Special Tactics Operator  
Training

US Air Force

AFI 48-123, Physical Standards